

duet of the officers who illegally seized and detained the steamer Black Warrior at Havana, but has also paid the sum claimed as indemnity for the loss thereby inflicted on citizens of the United States.

In consequence of a destructive hurricane, which visited Cuba in 1844, the supreme authority of that island issued a decree, permitting the importation, for the period of six months, of certain building materials and provisions, free of duty, but revoked it when about half the period only had elapsed, to the injury of citizens of the United States, who had proceeded to act on the faith of that decree. The Spanish government refused indemnification to the parties aggrieved until recently, when it was assented to, payment being promised to be made so soon as the amount due can be ascertained.

Satisfaction claimed, for the arrest and search of the steamer El Dorado, has not yet been accorded, but there is reason to believe that it will be, and that case, with others, continues to be urged on the attention of the Spanish government. I do not abandon the hope of concluding with Spain some general arrangement, which, if it do not wholly prevent the recurrence of difficulties in Cuba, will render them less frequent, and whenever they shall occur facilitate their more speedy settlement.

MEXICO.

The interposition of this government has been invoked by many of its citizens, on account of injuries to their persons and property, for which the Mexican republic is responsible. The unhappy situation of that country, for some time past, has not allowed its government to give due consideration to claims of private reparation, and has appeared to call for and justify some forbearance in such matters on the part of this government. But, if the revolutionary movements, which have lately occurred in that republic, and the organization of a stable government, urgent appeals to its justice will then be made, and it may be hoped, with success, for the redress of all complaints of our citizens.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

In regard to the American republics, which from their proximity and other considerations, have peculiar relations to this government, while it has been my constant aim strictly to observe all the obligations of political friendship and of good neighborhood, obstacles to this have arisen in some of them, from their own insufficient power to check lawless eruptions, which in effect throw most of the task on the United States. Thus it is that the distracted internal condition of the State of Nicaragua has made it incumbent on me to appeal to the good faith of our citizens to abstain from unlawful intervention in its affairs, and to adopt preventive measures to the same end, which, on a similar occasion, had the best results in reassuring the peace of the Mexican States of Sonora and lower California.

TREATIES.

Since the last session of Congress a treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, and for the surrender of fugitive criminals, with the kingdom of the Two Sicilies; a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation with Nicaragua; and a convention of commercial reciprocity with the Hawaiian kingdom, have been negotiated. The latter kingdom and the state of Nicaragua have also acceded to a declaration, recognizing as international rights the principles contained in the convention between the United States and Russia of the 22d of July, 1854. These treaties and conventions will be laid before the Senate for ratification.

TREASURY.

The statements made in my last annual message, respecting the anticipated receipts and expenditures of the Treasury, have been substantially verified.

It appears from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, that the receipts during the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1855, from all sources, were sixty-five million three thousand nine hundred and thirty dollars; and that the public expenditure for the same period, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, amounted to fifty-six million three hundred and sixty-five thousand three hundred and ninety-three dollars. During the same period the payments made in redemption of the public debt, including interest and premium, amounted to nine million eight hundred and forty-four thousand five hundred and twenty-eight dollars.

The balance in the Treasury at the beginning of the present fiscal year, July 1, 1855, was eighteen million nine hundred and thirty-one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six

dollars, the receipts for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts for the remaining three quarters, amount, together, to sixty-seven million nine hundred and eighteen thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars, thus affording in all, as the available resources of the current fiscal year, the sum of eighty-six million eight hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and ten dollars.

If, to the actual expenditures of the first quarter of the current fiscal year, be added the probable expenditures for the remaining three quarters, as estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury, the sum total will be seventy-one million two hundred and twenty-six thousand eight hundred and forty-six dollars, thereby leaving an estimated balance in the Treasury on July 1, 1856, of fifteen million six hundred and twenty-three thousand eight hundred and sixty-three dollars and forty-one cents.

In the above estimated expenditures of the present fiscal year are included three million dollars to meet the last instalment of the ten millions provided for in the late treaty with Mexico; and seven million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, appropriated on account of the debt due to Texas, which two sums make an aggregate amount of ten million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and reduce the expenditures, actual or estimated, for ordinary objects, of the year, to the sum of sixty million four hundred and seventy-six thousand dollars.

The amount of the public debt, at the commencement of the present fiscal year, was forty million five hundred and eighty-three thousand six hundred and thirty-one dollars, and deduction being made of subsequent payments, the whole public debt of the Federal Government remaining at this time is less than forty million dollars.

The remnant of certain other Government stocks, amounting to two hundred and forty-three thousand dollars, referred to in my last message as outstanding, has since been paid.

I am fully persuaded that it would be difficult to devise a system superior to that by which the fiscal business of the Government is now conducted. Notwithstanding the great number of public agents of collection and disbursement, it is believed that the checks and guards provided, including the requirement of monthly returns, render it scarcely possible for any considerable fraud on the part of those agents, or neglect involving hazard of serious public loss, to escape detection. I renew, however, the recommendation, heretofore made by me, of the enactment of a law declaring it felony on the part of public officers to insert false entries in their books of record or account, or to make false returns, and also require them, on the termination of their service, to deliver to their successors all books, records, and other objects of a public nature in their custody.

Derived as public revenue is, in chief part, from duties on imports, its magnitude affords gratifying evidence of the prosperity, not only of our commerce, but of the other great interests upon which that depends. The principle that all moneys not required for the current expenses of the government should remain for active employment in the hands of the people, and the conspicuous fact that the annual revenue from all sources exceeds, by many millions of dollars, the amount needed for a prudent and economical administration of public affairs, cannot fail to suggest the propriety of an early revision and reduction of the tariff of duties on imports. It is now so generally conceded that the purpose of revenue alone can justify the imposition of duties on imports, that, in re-adjusting the impost tables and schedules, which unquestionably require essential modifications, a departure from the present tariff is not anticipated.

ARMY.

The army, during the past year, has been actively engaged in defending the Indian frontier, the state of the service permitting but few and small garrisons in our permanent fortifications. The additional regiments authorized at the last session of Congress have been recruited and organized, and a large portion of the troops have already been sent to the field. All the duties which devolve on the military establishment, have been satisfactorily performed, and the dangers and privations incident to the character of the service required of our troops have furnished additional evidence of their courage, zeal, and capacity to meet any requisition, which their country may make upon them. For the details of the milita-

ry operations, the distribution of the troops, and additional provisions required for the military service, I refer to the report of the Secretary of War and the accompanying documents.

Experience, gathered from events which have transpired since my last annual message, has but served to confirm the opinion then expressed of the propriety of making provision, by a retired list, for disabled officers, and for increased compensations to the officers retained on the list for active duty. All the reasons which existed, when these measures were recommended on former occasions, continue without modification, except so far as circumstances have given to them additional force.

The recommendations heretofore made for a partial re-organization of the army are also renewed. The thorough elementary education given to those officers who commence their service with the grade of cadet, qualifies them, to a considerable extent, to perform the duties of every arm of the service; but to give the highest efficiency to artillery requires the practice and special study of many years, and it is not, therefore, believed to be advisable to maintain, in time of peace, a larger force of that arm than can be usually employed in the duties appertaining to the service of field and siege artillery. The duties of the staff in all its various branches belong to the movements of an army in the field, and materially depend upon the ability with which those duties are discharged. It is not, as in the case of the artillery, a speciality, but requires, also, an intimate knowledge of the duties of an officer of the line, and it is not doubted that, to complete the education of an officer for either the line or the general staff, it is desirable that he shall have served in both. With this view, it was recommended on a former occasion that the duties of the staff should be mainly performed by details from the line; and, with conviction of the advantages which would result from such a change, it is again presented to the consideration of Congress.

[Concluded next week.]

The Senate of Virginia lately passed a bill for the voluntary enslavement of a free negro of Southampton county. He is an old man, sixty years of age, and has lately been emancipated, but is anxious to remain in the condition of servitude, which he knows, by his own experience and observation, is the best and happiest condition for his race. So numerous are applications of this character, that it has been found necessary to introduce a general law into the Legislature for the voluntary enslavement of any free negro of the commonwealth.

At PAR.—In a recent bank suit in Pennsylvania, Judge Pearson gave the legal meaning to the words "at par," as used in money transactions: "The notes of a bank 'at par' within the meaning of this act (of the Legislature,) is wherever they are equal to gold and silver for ordinary purposes. The phrase 'at par' does not mean that the paper must be received in the custom house, at the city banks, or by the brokers. If the notes are equivalent to gold and silver for all ordinary business transactions, they are at par within the true intent and meaning of the act."

An exhorter in an orthodox church in Brooklyn, N. Y., during prayer meetings, carries a pack of cards in his pocket—his own business cards—and when penitents come forward to the anxious seat, he writes a Scripture text upon each card, and offers them to the convicted sinners for special contemplation. This kills two birds with one stone—advertisises his business and comforts the souls of the contrite; and the good brother finds religious matters to pay extremely well.

The Presidency.—The Hon. J. M. Botts, of Virginia, in reply to an urgent request of sundry citizens of the town of Triangle, in Broome county, New York, consents to the use of his name as a candidate of the Know Nothing party for the Presidency, though he frankly confesses that he thinks his nomination a highly improbable event.

In the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, in 1853, while a bill granting pensions to certain revolutionary veterans was pending in that body, Mr. Mathias moved to add a gratuity of \$40 to one Sarah Cross, "the sweetheart of an old soldier," which motion prevailed, 45 to 35.

There were five murders in New Orleans on Christmas eve.

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER.

Free of Postage in Lincoln County

N. O. WALLACE, Editor.

Office.—At the same Old Stand: Sign of the "Observer Printing Office."

FAYETTEVILLE, TENN.

Thursday Morning, January 17, 1856

TO ADVERTISERS!

The POST-OFFICE LIST OF LETTERS is published in the

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER,

by authority of an Act of Congress, which provides that it shall appear in the Newspaper having the

Largest Circulation!

STATE CONVENTION.

The Democratic State Convention met in Nashville, on Tuesday, 8th inst. The number of delegates in attendance was large, and the action harmonious. We have only room for an abstract to-day—the Platform will appear in our next. The delegates who were present from Lincoln, were: T. J. Green, A. Eaton, H. Henderson, Dr. H. H. Reeves, E. S. N. Bobo, and Capt. Geo. V. Hebb.

Mr. E. G. Eastman, from a committee appointed at a preliminary meeting held on Monday night, reported as officers of the Convention, the following gentlemen:

PRESIDENT.—Hon. J. D. C. Atkins, of Henry.

VICE PRESIDENTS.—John Ball, of Hawkins, J. D. Goodyear, of Overton, Lewis Shepherd, of Hamilton, W. P. Davis, of Marshall, Sylvester Adams, of Humphreys, Robert McNeilly, of Dickson, G. W. Tally, of Dyer, N. Barnett, of Shelby.

SECRETARIES.—A. B. Small, of Knox, Sam C. Caruthers, of Wilson, C. M. Campbell, of Maury, John M. Carmack, of Shelby, Willis A. Bush, of Sumner.

On motion, Mr. Bullen, of Greene, the doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, was invited to wait on the Convention.

Mr. Geo. A. Nixon, of Lawrence, offered resolutions providing that the Convention proceed forthwith to the selection of two electors for the State at large, and four delegates to the National Convention at Cincinnati, and four alternates, and providing that the delegates from each Congressional District meet and appoint a committee of two to act in conjunction in the selection of said electors and delegates, which were adopted.

The Convention then took a recess of thirty minutes for the purpose of expediting business.

The Convention having re-assembled, Andrew Ewing, Esq., moved that the different Congressional districts report the names of the gentlemen selected under the resolution, which were as follows:

- 1st. J. A. W. Harris, Loyd Bullen.
- 2d. J. W. McHenry, W. T. Helm.
- 3d. D. W. Ballew, M. T. Johnson.
- 4th. Jas. M. Sheid, John P. Maury.
- 5th. M. H. Sims, W. H. Barksdale.
- 6th. T. W. Newman, C. M. Campbell.
- 7th. Sylvester Adams, T. M. Jones.
- 8th. Dr. Menees, Mr. Mathis.
- 9th. N. Y. Cavitt, B. L. Stovall.
- 10th. R. J. Wood, J. N. Barnett.

Mr. Sykes of Maury moved that a committee of one of each Congressional district be appointed by the chair to report resolutions, and the following gentlemen were appointed:

W. J. Sykes, J. W. Head, John Ball, Crozier Ramsey, J. O. Burch, Dr. A. Johnson, Bolling Gordon, Andrew Ewing, Thos. J. Freeman, and J. Knox Walker.

Gen. Donelson moved that as resolutions were offered, they be referred to the committee on resolutions.

Mr. Burch, of Hamilton, from the Committee of two from each Congressional District, appointed for the purpose of selecting two electors for the State at Large, four delegates and four alternates to the next National Democratic Convention, reported that they had selected—

For Electors for the State at Large: Hon. W. H. Polk, of Maury, and Hon. Isam G. Harris, of Shelby.

Delegates to the National Convention, from the State at Large:

Thomas C. Lyon, of Knox; E. L. Gardinire, of White; E. G. Eastman, of Davidson; W. E. Travis, of Henry.

The following gentlemen are the alternates, viz:

W. T. Helms, of Knox; James M. Sheid, of Coffee; John K. Howard, of Wilson; I. N. Barnett, of Shelby.

And, in obedience to the latter part of the said resolution for their appointment, requiring them to report the names of two Delegates and their Alternates from each Congressional District, to the National Convention, Mr. Burch submitted, from the same committee, the following report:

For District Delegates—

Dist. 1.—Wm. M. Lowrey, and Jacob Miller, delegates; W. H. Maxwell, and Green Moore, alternates.

Dis. 2.—J. D. Goodpasture, and J. C. Ramsey delegates; H. M. Colquitt, and Thos. Johnson, alternates.

Dis. 3.—Lewis Shepherd, and D. W. Ballew, delegates; William Wallace, and N. J. Vanghen, alternates.

Dis. 4.—Dr. A. Johnson, and Dr. T. J. Ursery, delegates; A. M. Savage, and W. W. Ferguson, alternates.

Dis. 5.—General B. B. Eate, and Col. L. C. Wagoner, delegates; Col. Ed. Wood, and Major J. M. Avenet, alternates.

Dis. 6.—T. W. Newman, and James H. Thomas, delegates; J. M. Davidson, and W. P. Davis, alternates.

Dis. 7.—Thos. M. Jones, and Brice M. Moore, delegates; B. B. Gilbert, and B. Gordon, alternates.

Dis. 8.—S. P. Allison, and Wm. A. Quarles, delegates; Randle W. McGavock, and G. P. Smith, alternates.

Dis. 9.—T. J. Freeman, and B. F. Lamo, delegates; S. W. Cochran, and J. M. Z. Baker, alternates.

Dis. 10.—J. Knox Walker, and Austin Miller, delegates; J. B. Lamb, and P. B. Glenn, alternates.

These reports were concurred in and the nominations adopted.

N. O. Blake, Esq., has commenced a new paper in Shelbyville, called "The Constitutional." We have known Mr. B. a good many years, and we know he has the ability to publish such a paper as the democracy of Bedford need. He has our best wishes for his complete success.

It is at last ascertained, that Hon. Wm. R. Harris is elected Judge of the Supreme Court, by about 500 majority.

For our local editorial head, see fourth page.

The Know-Nothing Bridge.

Why don't the "National" Know-Nothing go over to Banks and organize the House at once? They have constructed a bridge which will afford them a safe transit and they will have about as much chance to get back to Congress by crossing over, as they will by standing where they are.

The "National" Know-Nothing consider Fuller a first-rate man—perfectly sound on the slavery question—and vote for him. Mr. Fuller thinks there is none so well qualified for the position, none so near "right upon the goose," as Pennington, and votes for him. Pennington thinks that Banks holds the right views upon the slavery question—besides he is a good Know-Nothing, and qualified in other respects—and sticks to him. It is true, Banks is a Black Republican, but Pennington can vote for him, for he is of the same stripe; and Fuller can vote for Pennington, because he was also elected as a Free-Soiler and anti-Nebraskaite; and if he has sold out his constituency, the conditions were the Speakership, which failing, we suppose the bargain will be at an end.

All these men are sound about alike, and the Southern Know-Nothing might as well vote for one as another. It will signify but little, as none of them will ever get back to Congress after having voted for Fuller in preference to Richardson.

EIGHT DOLLARS A DAY SAVED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives in Congress gets \$16 a day; therefore, so long as there is no Speaker there is a saving of eight dollars a day. That is saving at the spile. If the session should last longer in proportion to the delay, it would lose at the bung hole \$40,000 per day. Pretty fair example of Fusion economy!

A Political Platform.

The Democratic members of the Legislature of Florida recently held a meeting, and appointed the second Wednesday in April next for the nomination of delegates to the Cincinnati Convention. These delegates will be instructed to insist upon the adoption of a platform of principles as the basis of a national organization prior to the nomination of candidates, and that said platform shall, among other things, include in substance the following propositions:

1. The recognition and adoption of the principles established in the Kansas-Nebraska act, and their application to the admission of new States.

2. That neither the Missouri Compromise nor any other anti-slavery restriction shall hereafter be extended over any territory of the United States.

3. The prompt and faithful execution of the fugitive slave law, and its permanent continuance upon the statute-book.

If these propositions shall not in substance be incorporated in the platform adopted by the Convention, the delegates from Florida will be instructed to withdraw.

LIABILITY OF LANDLORDS.—In a case before Judge Storer, of Cincinnati, where a landlord sued for rent, the tenants set up a counter claim for damages, because, during the existence of their tenancy, (on a verbal lease,) the roof had been damaged, and the landlord declined to repair the roof. Judge Storer intimated that it was a serious question, which should be settled, whether a person who holds property from year to year has any right to compel his landlord to repair. He has no right (observed the court) by the common law; late authorities in England exclude the right altogether, and in New York the rule is well settled that, in a case like this, unless there is an express agreement on the part of the landlord to repair, the tenant takes the building as it is.

Salaries of Clergymen.—In reply to a complaint of the cost of clergymen's salaries, a friend of the clergy pertinently inquires: Did such croakers ever think that it cost thirty-five millions of dollars to pay the salaries of American lawyers; that twenty millions of dollars are paid out annually to keep our criminals, and ten millions of dollars to keep the dogs in the midst of us alive, while only six millions of dollars are spent annually to keep six thousand ministers in the United States?

PLUCKY.—The editor of the Ilion Independent is a brick. Hear him:

The editor of the Social Visitor speaks of us as a reformed dentist, and volunteers a little advice, suggesting that we let politics alone and stick to our profession. We beg to inform the gentleman that we pull teeth at the usual rates, and the noses of impertinent meddlers for nothing.

The Irish Court of Queen's Bench has declared that a clergyman may marry himself. The question arose as to the legitimacy of the children of a marriage thus performed, and Judge Crampton delivered judgment in favor of the validity of the marriage.

HOW NEAR MR. BANKS CAME TO BEING ELECTED LAST WEEK.—The agent of the New York Associated Press, at Washington city, telegraphed—

Mr. Banks, last week, on one or two occasions, obtained precisely votes enough, for the election of a Speaker; but before the result could be announced, several gentlemen who had been sent for, hurriedly entered the House, and cast their suffrages for another, thus turning the scale.

Men talk (says the celebrated Dr. Hall) about "hardening the constitution," and, with that view, expose themselves to summer's sun and winter's wind. To the same end, ill-informed mothers souse their little infants in cold water day by day—their skin, and flesh, and bodies, as steadily growing rougher and thinner and weaker, until slow fever, or water on the brain, or consumption of the bowels, carries them to the grave; and then they administer to themselves the semi-comfort and rather questionable consolation of its being a mysterious dispensation of Providence!

The last received number of the Union, published at St. Croix, Minnesota, says: "We saw an icicle yesterday, down at M'Kusick's mill-race, which was eighteen or twenty feet long, and in some parts between four and five feet in diameter. It was the king of icicles."

London Banking and Forged Bills.

Chamber's Journal is the authority for the following statement. Our readers will agree with us when we say that we do not believe that there is a bank in America which would dishonor itself by discounting or receiving across its counter a piece of forged paper:

"Who, for example, would suppose that London firms of character and eminence deal knowingly and systematically in forged bills? Yet, such is actually the case. A great many dealers whose names alone can sometimes turn the current of the market, have a quiet drawer in which they stow away these bills, just as they would any others. The principle upon which they proceed is a simple one. They know their customer; he is a man in business, with a stock in trade, a character to lose, and greatly in want of ready money. This customer forges to his bill the name, usually, of some near relative, or some one of moneyed fame with whom he is connected. The dealers, fully aware of the circumstances, take the bills. They know well that their customer will pay this bill before any others—that he will run all risk upon all payments, make all sacrifices, rather than leave these bills unpaid, with the terrible consequences of their examination. The customer, in fact, says to the dealer, I put my liberty, my character and prospects into your hand; if I fail in my engagements, you will have the power to transport me as a felon; I shall not run that risk. I have such and such property, such and such connection; lend me so much money. The dealers do not hesitate to comply."

Going to Law.

We find the following in an exchange, and give it, for the benefit of our readers, advising, at the same time, all those who have petty quarrels and disputes about similar matters, to settle them at home. None but fools rush to the strong arm of the law for help—wise men never go to law, unless compelled to do so.

Upwards of eighty years ago, there was in the town of Hatherleigh, in the county of Devon, an inn, known by the name of the Client's Arm.—There was a swinging signboard, on one side of which was a man, stripped of his coat and waist-coat, exclaiming, "I've been to law and have won," and on the other side of this signboard was painted a man stark naked, crying out, "Oh! what shall I do? I have been to law and have lost!" The origin of which was this: Two men had a dispute about a little spot of land, respecting which ended in the verdict of a jury. The man against whom the verdict was given could not pay the cost, and the winner had to pay all his own. In fact, the loser was stripped of all his property; the victor, was obliged to sell his real estate, and took an inn, and set up the above mentioned sign as a warning to others. Some of the descendants are now living.

Religion would appear to be at a low ebb among the Chinese. The priest sits down in front of an altar with a small taper burning, and with a small mallet in one hand and a string of beads in the other, he begins to hum or half sing a certain number of words. This appears to be all the worship they have, and their belief is that the priest can and must do all the praying. There appears to be no solemnity attached to this service by the people or the priest.

The Speakership of the British House of Commons is an office of considerable emolument. The salary is \$50,000 a year, exclusive of a furnished residence. At the end of his official labors he is generally rewarded with a peerage, and a pension of \$20,000 for two lives. He is a member of the Privy Council, and entitled to rank after barons.

The New Yorkers are talking of a monument to Washington 600 feet high on the Battery, surrounded by his statue—the whole to be of iron, and to be finished in ten years!—The committee of the board of Aldermen, it is said, have determined to report in favor of it.

Man's vision is one of the most remarkable facts connected with his physical organization. Ross, in his voyage to Baffin's Bay, proved that a man, under favorable circumstances, could see over the surface of the sea 150 miles!

A German writer says that the people of the United States can burst more steamboats and chew more tobacco than any other five nations of the globe. This man must have traveled among us with his eyes open.